

In this year ahead we must focus attention on reauthorizing the Elder Justice Act. The Coalition commends Representative Peter King for his introduction of H.R. 988 in this Congress and also for being the House author of the original Elder Justice Act. Similarly we salute the leadership of Senator Orrin Hatch, the author of the Elder Justice Act in the Senate. We also acknowledge the critical work that Senator Chuck Grassley did to help pass the Act.

As our nation continues to grow older, we have to recognize that elder abuse will also grow unless we commit resources to help prevent it. This includes providing adequate funding for Adult Protective Services in all our states as well as for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program so we are able to investigate elder abuse in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This is the essence of the Elder Justice Act, a sound investment in a safe future for older Americans.

We also recognize that we need to reauthorize and fund other programs that work hand in hand with the EJA. The Older Americans Act with its important elder abuse provisions and aging network is past due for reauthorization. We must also protect the core funding we currently have for Adult Protective Services through the Social Services Block Grant Program.

Finally, we must also take advantage of an important opportunity provided by the Congress in the FY 2015 omnibus appropriations bill. In this measure, the cap for the Crime Victims' Fund, created by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), was more than tripled from \$730 million to a new high of \$2.361 billion. We call on the Justice Department and state VOCA agencies to direct an appropriate amount of these new funds to aid elder abuse crime victims.

Our bipartisan 3000 member Elder Justice Coalition sees this fifth anniversary as a turning point in our national effort to prevent elder abuse. We cannot be in denial that the problem exists; instead, we need to put the same commitment into addressing this crisis as we have done with child abuse for more than 40 years and domestic violence over the past 20.

Older adults deserve to live a life free from the reality or even the fear of elder abuse. That is our agenda, pure and simple. Let us build on the work done over these past five years and strive to achieve elder justice which has to mean the prevention of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

INTRODUCTION OF CARERS ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce CARERS Act, a bipartisan House companion to a bipartisan Senate bill that would allow states to set their own policies on medical marijuana, and give Veterans Administration physicians the ability to recommend medical marijuana to their patients.

The consensus on medical marijuana is overwhelming. Last year, a CBS News Poll found 86 percent of Americans thought doctors should be allowed to prescribe small amounts of marijuana for patients suffering from serious illnesses.

86 percent of Americans rarely agree on anything.

Even CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta, who was once skeptical of medical marijuana, has publicly endorsed it.

Yet, our federal laws continue to treat patients and the doctors and families who care for them like criminals.

It is long overdue for our federal law to reflect the common sense views of 86 percent of Americans and stop adding to the suffering of those with horrible illnesses.

One such patient was my constituent, Chloe Grauer. At 3 years old, Chloe suffered from a rare neurological disease that caused her to have 100 to 200 seizures a day. She tried dozens of medications and underwent surgical procedures but nothing stopped the seizures. Her family tried desperately to treat her with Cannabidiol—also known as “Charlotte’s Web” or “CBD” for short—which has been shown to treat certain diseases that cause seizures, such as the disease from which Chloe suffered. CBD is derived from cannabis plants, and even though it contains just trace amounts of the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana—nowhere near enough to produce a high—but it is currently illegal under federal law. Even this tiny amount of the ingredient, THC, was enough for the federal government to keep a potentially life-saving drug away from Chloe.

Late last year, Chloe died without receiving CBD.

This should never have happened. We must ensure that this never happens again.

Just as our children deserve to be treated compassionately, so, too, do our veterans. Federal law currently prohibits VA doctors from prescribing medical marijuana when they feel it is medically beneficial. Our veterans deserve the best medical advice from their doctors, not arbitrary limits on what their doctors can do to help them. Veterans are tough. They can handle frank advice from their doctors.

Earlier this month, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced a bill that would make vitally necessary, common sense changes to federal law that would allow for greater access to medically necessary marijuana: the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion and Respect States Act. The bill builds upon efforts here in the House of Representatives. I applaud all of these efforts, and am proud to help keep the momentum going by introducing a bipartisan House companion to this bill with my colleague DON YOUNG of Alaska.

I urge the House to pass this bill swiftly, bring a dose of sanity to our federal drug policy, and extend some much needed compassion to those suffering from horrible illnesses.

RECOGNITION OF DR. C. KERN WILDENTHAL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to recognize Dr. C. Kern Wildenthal of Dallas, Texas. Dr. Wildenthal served as president of UT Southwestern for 22 years. He raised more than \$750 million for research and clinical programs at the medical school during 2001 and 2007.

Dr. Wildenthal is a visionary who led the effort to develop the North Campus of UT Southwestern, which is being named in his

honor. “The C. Kern Wildenthal Research Building.” He is deserving of this tribute. Because of his leadership, the research and clinical programs at UT Southwestern have made significant contributions to the medical field.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wildenthal undertook world-class research initiatives. He spent more than 38 years building the reputation of UT Southwestern as a faculty member, dean and president. During his tenure, enrollment at the University quintupled in size, and the Medical Center’s endowment grew from \$40 million to more than \$1.3 billion.

A stellar academic, Dr. Wildenthal earned his bachelor’s degree from Sul Ross State University in Alpine, a medical degree from UT Southwestern and a doctorate from the University of Cambridge in England. Dr. Wildenthal trained at Bellevue Hospital in New York, Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. He led a cardiology research program and has published more than 120 science and medical journal articles.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. C. Kern Wildenthal is truly a phenomenal educator, physician, scientist and leader. A man fueled by dedication and committed to public service, he has set the bar high for his successor. He is the recipient of the 1975 Guggenheim Fellowship. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1999. I stand today to honor Dr. C. Kern Wildenthal and to thank him for his work in service to the people of Dallas and to everyone within and beyond our borders who benefit from his scientific vision and exemplary medical service.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. SOFIA MENDOZA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2015

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to celebrate the life of Sofia Mendoza, known to me and her other friends as Sophie, and to memorialize her as a passionate community leader whose advocacy will long be remembered in my hometown of San Jose. Throughout her life, Sophie was unwavering in her commitment to end the prejudicial treatment of underrepresented communities, and particularly of the Mexican-American community in East San Jose. Her leadership affected landmark changes across a diversity of city interests, from reform of education and criminal justice, to the manner in which city council members are elected today.

Sophie Mendoza was born in the small agricultural town of Fillmore, California. Her father Tiburcio was a labor organizer, and was a lifelong inspiration to her. Tiburcio had temporarily moved the family to Fillmore where he was organizing citrus and avocado pickers to strike against unjust working conditions. Fillmore would be one of many destinations as Sophie’s father moved from one labor battle to the next.

Sophie’s mother Margarita was also an active organizer alongside her husband. But Tiburcio initially looked to Sophie’s younger brothers to carry the family torch of community activism. He would soon discover that it was